Sanskrit. Why have you not spent equal money for other languages? She has not answered my question about the Tholkappium grammar. You know very much about it. It is more ancinet grammar than the Sanskrit grammar. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Moreover, Tamil grammar is widely accepted by the world. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: The hon. Chairman knows about the Tholkappium grammar. This grammar is the mother of all grammars. (*Interruptions*). The Minister has not replied to my question. She has not answered my question.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Q. No. 223.

Drastic Reduction in Liabilties of Drug Companies by Special Team

*223. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR SAHU:†

SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that liabilities against drug companies involved in Supreme Court case were reduced by the Members of the Special Term after taking into consideration erroneous rates, quantities, period, allowing certain disputed set-offs and by not working out the liabilities on the formulations as envisaged in the Supreme Court judgement;

(b) whether it is also a fact that liabilities of over Rs. 300 crores against nine companies were reduced to a meagre amount of Rs. 17 crores; and

(c) if so, what action has been taken against the Members of Special Team?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the Rajya Sabha.

Statement

(a) and (b) The Special Team's recommendations regarding the liabilities of the companies involved in the Supreme Court case, aggregated to Rs. 13.57 crores only, for the period upto 31-12-1983. In view, however, on receipt of complaints alleging various acts of omission and commission on the part of the Special Team, it was decided, in 1989, to review all the recommendations made by the Team. As a result of review, the tentative liability of those companies for the period upto 31-12-1983 has gone upto Rs. 43.36 crores.. For the period after 1-1-1984 also the liabilities have since been worked out, tentatively, in a number of cases and communicated to the companies. The details are given in the Annexure. (*See* below).

(c) The question of taking any action against any member of the Special Team will arise only after the liabilities are finally determined.

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Santosh Kumar Sahu.

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR SAHU: Sir, in view of the reply given today, after the judgement of the Supreme Court, the liabilities of the bulk drug producing companies who were involved in the Supreme Court case as prepared by the special team were Rs. 11.57 crores. And after review, up to December, 1983 it was Rs. 43.36 crores. As regards this question, in this House the hon. Minister replied on 12th December, 1991 that the Special Team prepared that the liabilities of the drug companies and the bulk drug producing companies were Rs. 13.65 crores. They were revised after complaints from Rs. 13 crores to Rs 111 crores. In view of the Supreme Court judgement that the profiteering involved in producing life-saving drugs is a serious offence and the companies must pay all the liabilities, whatever is the difference between the selling price and the drug control price, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether, in view of these large differences given in the answer the amount of liabilities has been finalised because the Supreme Court judgment was given seven years back and how many crores of rupees are really outstanding against these bulk producers of life-saving drugs? In their last reply it was found out to be Rs. 111 crores or more. Later it was revised. What is the notice they have given to these companies to pay back the amount because this will go to the Drug Equalisation Price Fund which will benefit the poor people of the country? How the Special Team could give such a low assessment of liabilities to these companies, has it been found out? Who are the persons responsible for it? Has it been properly dealt with by the Government? I want a clear answer to all these questions.

SHRI CHINTA MOHAN: Sir, the Government appointed a Special Team to investigate into this DPEA and the Team said, it is about Rs. 13 crores tentatively for the period upto 31-12-83. After that, in 1989 the Government received some complaints. Again we reviewed them and they come to about Rs. 43 crores. It is also a tentative assessment. When Gurupadaswamyji was a Minister, he had given some formula to calculate the DPEA. The Government is also reviewing these twelve cases. We have written notices to them to send the money and we are pursuing them. We are sending notice after notice and some of them had gone to the Court. We are doing our best to collect this money.

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR SAHU: Now the figure given in this House is that the collection of arrears and the liabilities of the major bulk drug producing companies is only to the extent of Rs. 10 crores, but as admitted today in the answer, the liabilities up to 1984 are Rs. 47 crores and now it will be amounting to more than Rs. 226 crores for all the companies for which we have calculated. When we are facing a financial crunch and the poor people cannot get drugs at subsidised rates, why is the Government hanky-panky in all these things? Why is it not taking firm steps for the recovery of these dues so that the people can be benefited at large? When it is crunch of finance, it can get Rs. 200 crores at a time for food subsidy. For Rs. 200 to Rs. 300 crores how much we are fighting with much difficulty. Here is a case where the arrears are more than Rs. 200 crores. I would like the Minister to tell us specifically whether the Government will take action for the recovery of the dues and issue notices to the companies under the Public Enquiry Act?

SHRI CHINTA MOHAN: Sir, there are two types of cases here, the Supreme Court cases for which the amount is estimated at Rs. 43.36 for the period upto 31-12-83 crores and for after 1984 the review is in progress. Including the other companies, the total liabilility was estimated at Rs. 226 crores tentatively and the Government is reviewing these cases. Since seven years this case has been

going on. Some of them have gone to the Court. Recently also, we had written notices to all these companies to pay the money as soon as possible.

श्री रजनी रंजन साहू : सभापति महोदय मैंने इस विषय पर सवाल पूछना ही छोड़ दिया था लेकिन आज आ गया है इसलिए प्रश्न पूछना पड़ रहा है । मैंने जिज्ञासा की थी वह टूट रही है । इस सवाल को पांच साल से हम परेशू करते आ रहे हैं । माननीय कुलकर्णी जी ने भी इस सवाल को उठाया था लेकिन अभी तक लायबिलिटी तय नहीं हो पाई कि कितना रुपया बाकी है । 12 कम्पनियों की लाएबिलिटी मंत्री महोदय ने आज के प्रश्न के उत्तर में दिया है । उत्तर में साफ साफ और सही सही लिख दिया है । दो कम्पनियों के बारे में हम आपका ध्यान आकर्षित करना चाहूंगा जिसमें 5280 रुपया की जगह पर 458 और दूसरी कम्पनी 1610 रुपया की जगह पर 138 को लायबिलिटी तय की गयी है । इतना फर्क लायबिलिटी कैलकुलेट करने में स्पेशल टीम ने लगाया है । सुप्रीम कोर्ट का फैसला था कि आठ वीक में लायबिलिटी दे दें । तो सुप्रीम कोर्ट का फैसला खत्म । प्रधान मंत्री जी ने एक अक्टूबर को लास्ट सेंशन में आश्वासन दिया वह खत्म । माननीय गुरुपदस्वामी जी जब मंत्री थे उन्होंने 1990 में आश्वासन दिया और कहा था कि स्पेशल टीम ने गलत आंकलन किया है । गलत आंकलन किया है दवा कम्पनियों से मिलकर । उसका आज तक निपटारा नहीं हुआ है । अब आप ही इस सदन की और हम लोगों की रक्षा करें । यह निपटारा 56 कम्पनियों का करना है । सिर्फ 56 कम्पनियों का आंकलन करना है और उस स्पेशल टीम ने गलत आंकलन किया है । यह जाहिर है । तो मैं मंत्री महोदय से पूछना चाहूंगा कि यदि स्पेशल टीम ने गलत आंकलन किया है तो स्पेशल टीम ने उसके ऊपर वे क्या कार्यवाही करने जा रहे हैं ? क्या सरकार के विभाग ने स्पेशल टीम के आंकड़ों या सुप्रीम कोर्ट के फैसले जिसमें निदश दिया है, डाइरेक्शन दिया [illegible] की फालो किया है या नहीं किया, या इनके विभाग के लोगों ने कागजात दिये या नहीं दिये ? मैं मंत्री महोदय से स्पष्ट रूप से जानना चाहता हूं कि स्पेशल टीम के ऊपर क्या कार्यवाही हुई है और स्पेशल टीम के साथ इनके विभाग की मिलीभगत पर क्या कार्यवाही कर रहे हैं ?

SHRI CHINTA MOHAN: Mr. Chairman, Sir, we are very clear in our mind that the DPEA has to be collected. There is confusion in the calculations of different committees. We are writing almost every month to all these companies to send the money. So far some companies have come forward and paid an amount of about Rs. 14 crores. We are trying our best to collect these monies and we will try to put further pressure on the companies to send the money soon. If at any point of time, any development comes we will inform the Member.

श्री रजनी रंजन साहू : नयी कमेटी कोई बनाने की सोच रहे हैं । इसकी जांच करके कोई नयी कमेटी फिर से बनाई जाए ।

SHRI CHINTA MOHAN: We will study this.

श्री सभापति : वह अपना जितना बजन है पूरा उस पर डाल रहे हैं ।

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: Sir, I am very unhappy about this issue. I could have used very strong language. During the last seven years all of us from various parties have been raising this question about drug cartel, drug companies and the collusion between the bureaucrats in the Ministry and the politicians and drug companies. I really have respect for hom.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: You mean affection.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: Would you please convey this to the Prime Minister? When the Prime Minister in the last session promised that he

would look into the matter, we thought "look" means "take some proper action". I am unhappy. Has not this Government any social responsibility to bring to book these scoundrels who have amassed money by charging high prices from the poor people? Please convey my message to the Prime Minister. I don't think you will ever recover a single farthing from these companies.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Kindly convey his views and I will add that the whole House is agitated. We must recover whatever is there as arrears.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: You must also convey this to the scoundrels he is referring to.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Who is he? Where is he? I don't see. Next question.

*224. [*The questioner (Shri Satchidananda) was absent. For answer,* vide *col.* 51—53 infra]

*225. [*The questioner (Shri Subramanian Swamy) was absent. For answer,* vide *col.* 53 infra].

*226. [*The questioner (Maulana Obaidullah Khan Azmi) was absent. For answer,* vide *col.* 53 infra].

Defence Minister's visit to Israel

*227. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Defence Minister has recently visited Israel; and

(b) if so, the outcome of the discussions held?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: I don't know how it happened. I have asked, whether it is a fact that the Chinese Defence Minister has recently visited Israel, and if so, what was the outcome of the discussions held. But unfortunately...

MR. CHAIRMAN: He has not visited. Are you advising him to visit? What are you saying?

DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Anyhow, I don't know whether the Defence Minister seeks further notice to answer the question. And I am putting the supplementary.

MR. CHAIRMAN: But your question is related to his visit.

DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: It was about the Chinese Defence Minister's visit (*Interruptions*)

SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: He has given a notice to ask whether the Chinese Defence Minister has visited Israel. But unfortunately...

DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: It is missing. (*Interruptions*).

श्रीमती सुषमा स्वराज : इस्राइल और चीन... (व्यवधान)... इस्राइली रक्षा मंत्री ने चीन के रक्षा मंत्री से..... (व्यवधान)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Whatever it is Israel and China are very far off.

DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: My first supplementary is, is the Government aware. ... (*Interruptions*)... of the visit of the Chinese Defence Minister to Israel? If so...

MR. CHAIRMAN: No. That does not arise.

DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: My second supplementary is, what are the possible areas of cooperation between India and Israel as well as